



Debbie Schade

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Debbie Schade

SCHOOL: Berney Elementary

Position: 5th grade teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 16 years

Q. What is the story path project your students are working on?

A. A story path takes the students from the beginning of a time period to the end. We are working on the pre-Revolutionary War era. The story path begins with basic information and evolves into more detailed information about that period of time. Through this project, students will understand what was going on and why it was happening.

Q. What are some of the activities the students do to make a story path?

A. Each table group is a family that selects a business they will run. We have wig-makers, a silversmith and a pub owner. All these are real businesses from this time period. Students then create characters and the characters they develop include their roles at home and in the business. Students are learning it took an entire family to keep a business and home running and life was not easy during these times.

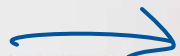
Q. What skills do the students learn with this project?

A. They learn to use their imaginations to create characters. They use their art skills to cut them out of paper and post them on a large poster detailing the era. They have to work in groups and collaborate with their table partners. They also do a lot of writing, reading and research to develop their story path.

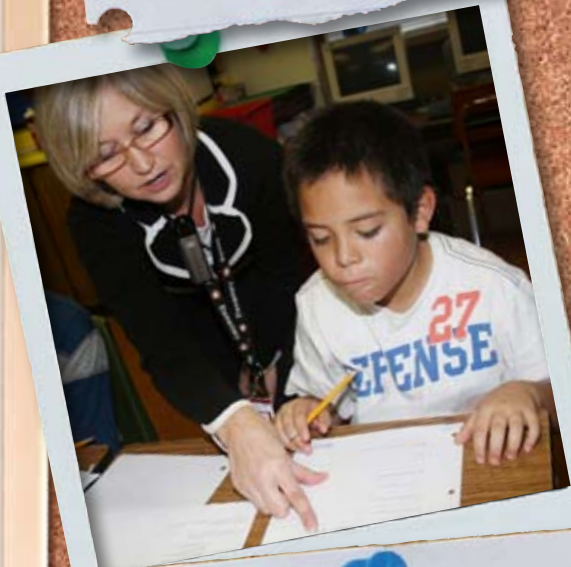
Q. Why is this type of project successful?

A. Instead of just reading about this subject in a book and filling out papers, they feel like they are a part of the whole story. They create little dimensional characters so it's a lot of hands on work. They just get deeply involved in the whole project.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
DEBBIE SCHADE'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM DEBBIE...

The story path project shows students how much things have changed. They learned there were no motors so everything had to be done by hand and they had to measure out their groceries at the store. It's been fun watching their discoveries.

We start talking to the students about the transition to middle school. We help them learn organizational skills and how to separate their subjects to stay on schedule.



I use a sound system in my class to help students hear. I talk in my normal voice throughout the day and all students can still hear. It's a great learning tool.